

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows. No new matter has been added.

Please add the following paragraph after the paragraph on page 5, lines 24-25.

FIG. 53 is an exploded plan view of a two-piece connecting rod apparatus according to one embodiment.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, line 21 to page 16, line 2 as follows.

FIGS. 31-35 depict an embodiment of the present invention that relates to a connecting rod for an internal combustion engine. Referring to FIG. 31, there is shown a connecting rod assembly 800 with the shank 810 shown exploded from the cap 820. Connecting rod 800 is of the angled-split design. In one embodiment, there is an angle 822 (e.g. by approximately 90 degree, by less than 90 degree, by approximately 60 degree) as shown in FIG. 31 between a line A parallel to the split plane and line B, which intersects the centerline of the shank. The split line of connecting rod assembly 800 is angled as shown so that a large crankpin can be included on crankshaft 700, yet still allow removal of the piston (not shown) and shank 810 through the cylinder without removing the crankshaft. However, the use of an angled split line tends to increase sheer forces on the fasteners 806 that hold cap 820 onto shank 810, and which sheer forces cause fretting of the interface between the cap and the shank.

Please amend the paragraph on page 21, lines 18-27 as follows.

Although what has been shown and described is a cap with projecting ears that are a press fit against mating surfaces of the shank, the present invention also contemplates those embodiments of a connecting rod apparatus (800A in Fig. 53) in which the ears (830A of Fig. 53) project from the shank (810A of Fig. 53) toward the cap (820A of Fig. 53), and these ears of the shank press laterally against flanged surfaces (844A of Fig. 53) of the cap. Additionally, although what has been shown and described are a cap or a shank with two projections mounted thereon, the present invention also contemplates those embodiments in which a cap or a shank has one projection mounted thereon. Furthermore, although an angled-split connecting rod has been shown and described, the present invention also contemplates embodiments utilizing a straight-split connecting rod.